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effective plea. All sorts of prejudices and dislikes amongst the elected members of a committee or of a council have to be considered. In a Voluntary Agency, a person with new ideas, or a group of enthusiasts for new methods of treatment of particular cases, can put new devices to the test of experiment.

HULL HOUSE

EDITH ABBOTT

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*Unemployment: A Social Study.* By B. SEEBOHM ROWNTREE and BRUNO LASKER. London: Macmillan, 1911. 8vo, pp. xvii+317. \$1.60 net.

Rowntree and Lasker's *Unemployment* must be assigned an important place among the numerous books recently published dealing with the problem of unemployment and of the unemployed. It presents the results of a detailed investigation of those without employment in the city of York, together with suggestions for remedying the evils which that investigation disclosed. Its value is enhanced by the fact that its scope and method of approach are different from those of any other book dealing with the subject and enable the reader to see the problem from a new angle and very concretely.

A census of working-class households made by the authors' enumerators revealed the fact that on June 7, 1910, there were 1,278 employable persons in York seeking work for wages but unable to find any suited to their capacities and under conditions which were reasonable, judged by local standards. This enumeration was followed by a careful study of those who were unemployed on the date indicated. Schedules designed to elicit full information as to industrial training, home life, amount and adequacy of family income, previous employment, age, character, etc., were used in this connection, and the data thus secured were checked by visits to school authorities and employers wherever possible.

According to the authors' tabulation, 129 of the 1,278 unemployed were youths under 19 years of age, 291 were men who had been in regular employment within two years, 441 were casual laborers (in other than the building trades), 173 belonged to the building trades, 105 were "workshy," while the remaining 139 were women and girls. A chapter is devoted to each of these groups. The data for each group are analyzed and methods of prevention, restoration, and care are suggested. As would be expected, the details indicate that a large percentage of the families were living under the poverty line and that there was great waste and deterioration of working power and much sacrifice of dependents. The appalling character of all this is made more vivid in chap. vii, which

is devoted to "detailed descriptions of selected families" under the poverty line. In chap. viii the authors advocate decentralization of the industrial population so that small farming may be combined with work for wages—a measure which Rowntree has made familiar through his *Land and Labour: Lessons from Belgium*, but which seems to have received scant attention in connection with the problem of the unemployed.

The authors limit themselves to a discussion of immediate causes of unemployment—looking at it from the point of view of why employment is not secured as well as from the point of view of why the lost employment was lost—and to measures which the analysis of causes naturally suggests. Most of the measures advocated are those urged in the majority or in the minority report of the Royal Commission on the Poor Laws. Emphasis is placed upon (1) better home surroundings, better training, vocational guidance, and instruction in continuation schools, for youths where the problem must first be attacked; (2) the doing of certain kinds of national and local government work in slack times—the work to be conducted in a business-like manner; (3) the decasualization of labor by labor exchanges of an approved type, and the withdrawal of the vicious and the treatment or care of the deficient; (4) insurance which would give a reserve power and prevent many from falling into the ranks of casual labor and perhaps becoming "work-shy"; and, above all, (5) the decentralization of town populations and the securing of allotments (by lease rather than by purchase) which would afford supplementary employment and a supplementary income, prevent demoralization and deterioration when industrial employment is not to be had, and provide the best surroundings for rearing children. The discussion of those and of other measures is acute and the opinions expressed will generally meet with approval.

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*Railway Transportation. A History of Its Economics and of Its Relation to the State.* By CHARLES LEE RAPER. New York: Putnam, 1912. 8vo, pp. xii+331.

The title-page of this book announces that it is based upon Hadley's *Railroad Transportation*, but the meaning of the statement is not at all clear. It is difficult to see what "based upon" signifies, inasmuch as the points of resemblance between the two books are few and slight. In its scope and plan the new work is very different from the old; and even in